

The Times-Dispatch INDUSTRIAL SECTION

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SOUTH BOSTON AND ITS ENTERPRISE

Fires and Panics Have Never
Daunted the Metropolis
of Halifax.

TOBACCO MARKET; COTTON INTEREST

Largest Vehicle Factories in the
South—Financial Centre of a
Rich and Prosperous Sec-
tion—Five Strong and
Splendidly Officered
Banks.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON,
Industrial Editor.

SOUTH BOSTON, VA., April 25.—I have written from here before of the "ancient" history of South Boston, telling the story of its beginning, a mile or more from here, on the south side of the Dan River, on the old stage coach line, when it, under the name of Boston, consisted of a store, an old-time stage road tavern, and a stable for the stage horses. When the Richmond and Danville railroad was completed, away back in the fifties, Boston picked itself up and moved to this side of the river, becoming a station on the then new railway line. When it blossomed forth as a post-office, the name was made South Boston, to distinguish it from its commercial and intellectual competitor up in New England.

From a Small Beginning.

In 1845 the place consisted of a railway station and a water tank. When the smoke of war cleared away in that year, the late Captain E. B. Jeffries opened a country store here, built a comfortable residence for himself and family, laid off a street, or rather improved the country road from the station up the hill and across the bridge on the south side of the river. He invited other merchants to locate here, and induced two or three small industries to come along and get the advantage of railway facilities.

Thus Mr. Jeffries became the father of the town of South Boston. As long as he lived he was proud of his city, spring, and never lost an opportunity to advance its interest. He lived to see it a flourishing tobacco market and commercial and manufacturing centre, of which he and all the people of Halifax became justly proud. The town was incorporated in 1884, when it had not 1,000 people. Now South Boston, with its immediate suburbs, has a population of something over 4,000.

The South Boston of To-Day.

As I wrote so fully when I was last here of the "ancient" history of the town, I will not in this letter follow in detail the story of its rapid growth for the twenty-eight years of its vigorous life, but just tell simply of its vigor and importance as a mercantile, tobacco and manufacturing centre of to-day, and of its importance as a financial centre. It is the clearing-house for Halifax county, in which it is situated, and for large parts of adjoining counties in both Virginia and North Carolina. Five of its strong banks do business in Virginia flourish in South Boston, and all of them do a good business.

This is the second largest bright tobacco market in the world, or as President Johnson, of the Tobacco Board of Trade, puts it, "the largest leaf tobacco market in the world per capita." By this means that the largest tobacco market in the world is in no other town on earth of 4,000 inhabitants which sells from 13,000,000 to 17,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco per year at an average price of more than \$10 per hundred pounds.

Tobacco is the leading interest, but woodworking is giving tobacco a close race for supremacy. With the Barbour Buggy Company, the Virginia Wagon Company, the South Boston Lumber Company, the Century Cotton Mills, the Century Manufacturing Company with its large cotton goods interest and its immense shirt factory, the ice factory, two brick, cement and tile plants and other industries of smaller proportions, other businesses sell more goods and handle more money than the aggregate than do the tobacco warehouses and the leaf tobacco buyers and commission merchants, but the exact figures would probably show that tobacco is the largest single interest.

Blessings in Disguise.

Some wise man, or one who posed as such, has said that a big fire does more good to a town in the long run than it does harm. If this be true South Boston has been a very fortunate town. In June, 1898, a \$200,000 fire cut a swath through the busiest part of the town, destroying many large stores, factories, etc. The people went right to work rebuilding with better material and making more attractive places of business. The waste places and the gaps left by this fire had just been filled when on March 25, 1907, there came another visitation of the fire fiend, and in a night \$750,000 worth of property went up in smoke. The total insurance was just \$500,000, and so South Boston waked up in the latter part of March a year ago to find its most important business section another pile of ashes, and the net loss to the good people was \$250,000.

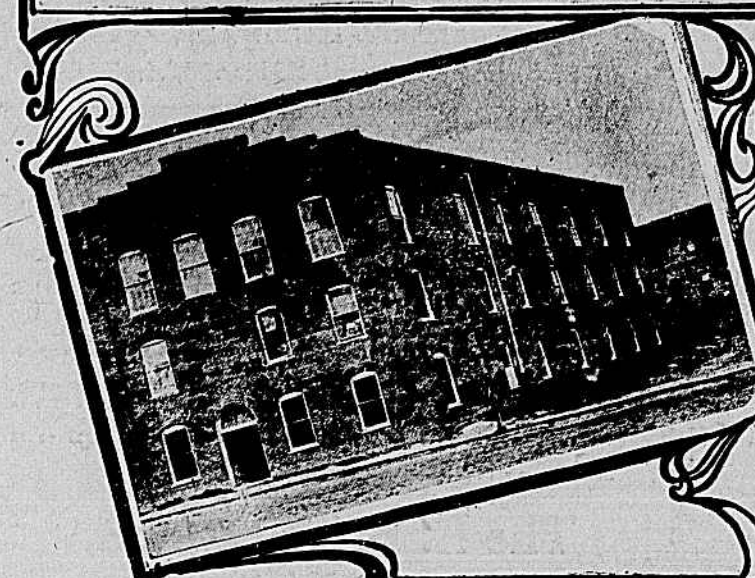
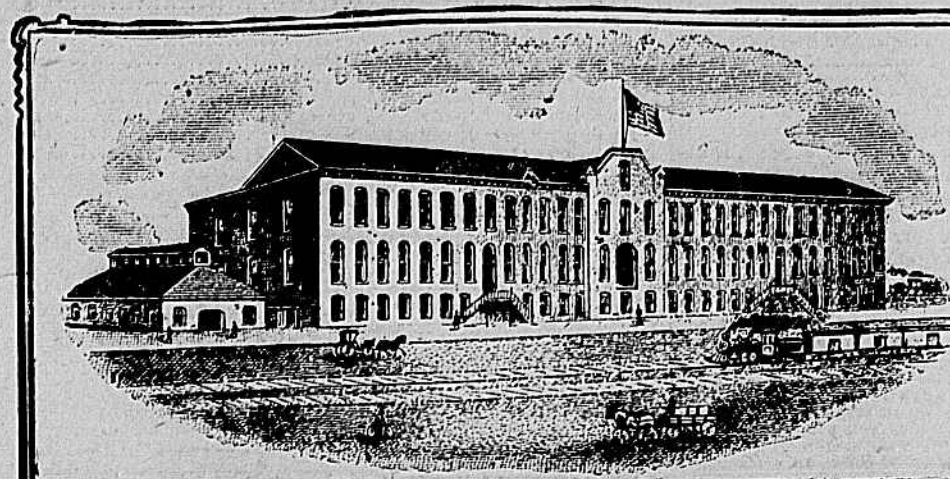
Couldn't be Kept Down.

But these plucky people were not discouraged. They again went to work to rebuild in a better way and to re-establish the burned-out business on stronger and better foundations. The panic came along in the autumn, and to a certain extent retarded and delayed building operations, but nobody went out of business.

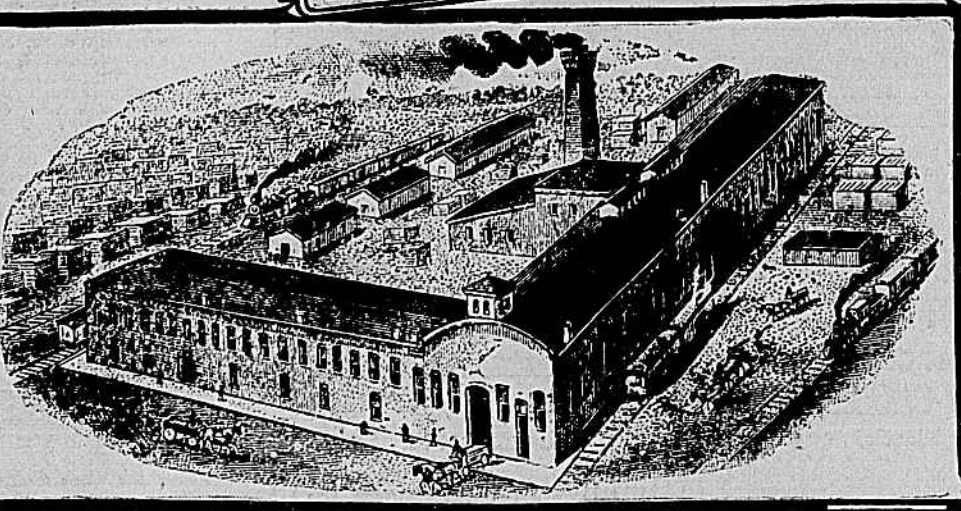
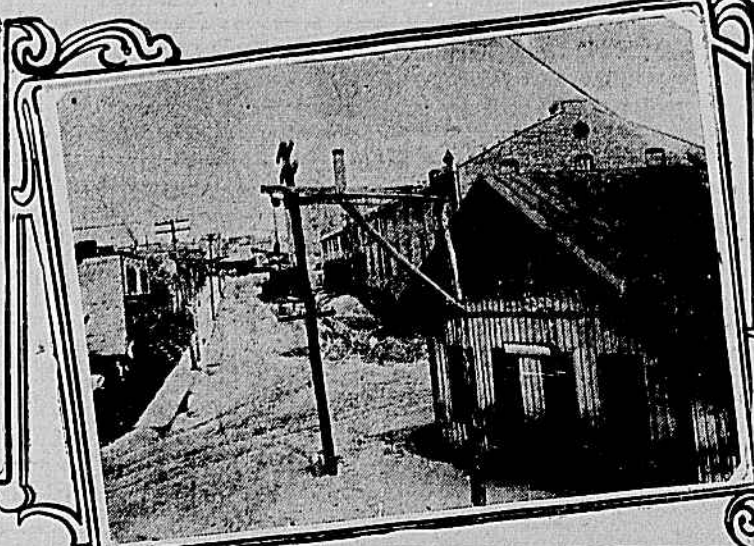
Building is still going on, and the streets in the burned district are yet crowded with bricks, concrete and lumber, while the sound of the busy hammer, saw and trowel is heard on every hand. In a very few months more a charred and blackened wall will not be seen. All of the tobacco establishments have been rebuilt and put in operation, among them the mammoth stemmings and drying plant of the American Tobacco Company and that of the R. J. Reynolds Company, said to be the most complete and best equipped

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SOME OF THE LEADING ENTERPRISES OF PROSPEROUS SOUTH BOSTON



FACTORY NO. 2.
Stebbins, Lawson & Sprang's Factory and Warehouse.



PART OF THE TOBACCO DISTRICT.

FACTORY NO. 3.

WHERE RANDOLPH MADE MINT JULEPS

Village Which Is the Capital
of Lunenburg County—Its
Ancient Houses.

VALUABLE RECORDS IN DANGER

Lunenburg's Splendid Courthouse
One of the Best Built in
the State.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON.

[Staff Correspondence.]
KENBRIDGE, LUNENBURG CO., VA., April 23.—Many versions have been given as to how this county acquired the name of "Free State of Lunenburg," but it remains for me to publish the true version, as obtained from one of the oldest inhabitants. It is simply this: The rich soil has ever been so productive the people could raise at home almost everything they required, and in old times they thereby made themselves so far as living comfortably and happily was concerned, if they should so elect.

Lunenburg is one of the older counties of the State, having been formed in 1746. It is about forty miles in length from east to west. Three miles wide from north to south. This area of 120 square miles, and every foot of it is good producing land.

Seeing Things as They Are.

My visit to the old county-house village, the other day necessitated one of the most enjoyable buggy rides I have ever taken in Virginia. It is true that the roads were not the best to be found in the world, as recent heavy rains had left them in quite a sloppy condition, but the high winds which April had borrowed from March and the warm spring sun were drying them rapidly, and showing how much nature will do towards making good roads. If the people will only do their part there need be no complaint of rugged thoroughfares anywhere in old Virginia. Lunenburg people have not done their duty in this respect, but there is an awakening going on, and probably the time is not far distant when road-making over in this part of the Commonwealth will be a matter of business rather than of county politics. That time cannot come too soon. The ten-mile drive to the court-house enabled me to see for myself somewhat of the undeveloped wealth of this good old county, and that made it enjoyable; but I exhausted that subject in my last communication from here.

Venerable Structures.

The village of Lunenburg, the county seat, is a quiet old place, a hamlet of about 150 souls, and it has been just this size for a hundred years. The court-house building, the jail, a quiet old hotel, with an underground dining-room, that probably antedates any other building in the town, are the public institutions. There are two churches in the village and a splendid graded school building. These are modern, especially the school building, which is very modern. It is a good school, and is perhaps the most up-to-date thing in the village.

There are three stores, all of which

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

PRICES ARE HIGH IN CLOSING DAYS

Receipts of Tobacco Light, but
Ready Demand for What Is
Offered.

With the greater part of the 1907 tobacco crop already sold, the market for last week was the smallest of the year. Prices were up to the best mark of the year. Dark tobacco, as it has been throughout the season, was very strong, while sun-cured, which has been off since soon after the Christmas holidays, showed up much stronger.

Dealers are well satisfied with the season as a whole, and are unanimous in their advice to the farmers to increase their acreage for next year. Those of the farmers who are belated with their crops say that great preparations are being made for a large crop next year.

Light Sales, At Good Prices.

LYNCHBURG, VA., April 25.—The tobacco sales on the local market during the past week, according to expectations, continued quite light, aggregating only 129,900 pounds. The offerings, however, continue good and the demand brisk. Little leaf and fine wrapper grades were sold last week. The prices on all grades continue fully up to the quotations. The sales for the season, beginning September 1st, aggregate 13,658,000 pounds, a decrease of 1,602,300 pounds, when compared with the previous twelve months.

Small Sales in Danville.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
DANVILLE, VA., April 25.—Messrs. Dibrell Brothers say of the Danville tobacco market:
"The loose sales have been so small this week that the market is hardly worth the while to report."
"The warehouses will keep open for the sale of tobacco all the summer, but it would not be any serious inconvenience to anybody if they were to close for sixty days."

The weather has been fine on plant beds, and for the preparation of the ground. We, therefore, look for an earlier than usual planting, and for the farmers to set as big a crop as they can get labor to take care of.

"Redried stocks are moving very slowly at present, although there is considerable inquiry for specialties."

Fancy Prices in Petersburg.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
PETERSBURG, VA., April 25.—As most of the crop has been marketed,

sales of loose tobacco at the Petersburg warehouses during the past week have continued light, but offerings have been readily taken at fancy prices.

The quotations, as given by Messrs. Craddock & Jones, of the Virginia Warehouse, are as follows:
Common lugs, \$8 to 9 per 100 pounds.
Good lugs, \$9 to \$11 per 100 pounds.
Short leaf, \$9.50 to \$11 per 100 pounds.
Shipping leaf, \$12 to \$13 per 100 pounds.
Short wrappers, \$12 to \$13 per 100 pounds.
Fine wrappers, \$17.50 to \$40 per 100 pounds.

Outlook Around Rocky Mount.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
ROCKY MOUNT, VA., April 25.—There have been good rains in this section this week, and the conditions are very favorable for planting tobacco. Though it is rather early to plant in this vicinity, the plants are all large, and many of the farmers are transplanting. There is no scarcity of plants in the beds, and the indications are that a full crop will be set, and perhaps an increase of 10 to 15 per cent. in the acreage, as compared with last year. With favorable seasons the bulk of the crop will have been set in the next week or ten days.

Blackstone Ends Good Season.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BLACKSTONE, VA., April 25.—Sales of tobacco continue very light upon this market, owing to the fact that nearly all the crop has been marketed. In fact, it is only in a few instances that any of the farmers in this section have any left in their barns. Prices have kept up to the top notch, and buyers are still anxious for all they can get.

Indications now are that this market will sell much more of the weed another season than ever in its history. In fact, there are some who say the sales will be doubled. There are several reasons for this. First, prior to this season much of the finer grades has sought other markets, while this season it has been offered here, and the prices received have shown that the market would purchase the finer qualities as well as the cheaper grades. Another reason is that the Tobacco Growers' Association has made purchase of a large warehouse here and large quantities of the tobacco grown by the association members will be sold here another season. Still another is the belief that a large crop will be planted this year, which will mean larger sales for all markets.

New City Hall for Bristol.

BRISTOL, VA., April 25.—Stono Bros., of New Orleans, were awarded the contract to make plans for the new City Hall to be erected here at a cost of \$90,000. The sketch submitted, shows a building of Colonial style, a successful firm was in competition with architects from Washington, Norfolk, Bristol and Chattanooga.

LARGE APARTMENT HOUSE TO BE BUILT IN NORFOLK.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NORFOLK, VA., April 25.—A building permit was issued to S. Q. Collins today for the erection of a large apartment house at the corner of Main Avenue and Helgate Avenue at a cost of \$25,000.

BUILDING BOOM IS ON IN KENBRIDGE

Brick and Tile Company's Super-
intendent—Kennedy-Walker
Company Buys Farm.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
KENBRIDGE, VA., April 25.—There is something of a building boom in Kenbridge. The handsome residence of Mr. T. W. Webb on Fifth Avenue has just been completed and Mr. Webb and family have moved in. Workmen are rushing to completion the home of Dr. T. C. Harris on the same beautiful street. Mr. F. J. Castle's up-to-date residence on Broad Street will be completed in time for early summer occupancy. Mr. John Bagley's large and commodious home near the Olive Branch Church on the west side is well underway and Mr. Bagley expects to be living in it before the summer is half gone. The home of Mr. C. C. Rickers is another handsome home being pushed to completion.

The Kennedy-Walker Land and Development Company have just purchased the splendid farm of the estate of the late Eugene W. Barnes. The tract, which is partly within the corporate limits of Kenbridge, contains 323 acres. On it is a substantial old Virginia country residence that is more than 100 years old. This model farm is split in twain by the railroad, the portion on the north side being within the corporate limits and on the extension of Fifth Avenue. This part will be laid off in lots, and that portion on the south side of the railway will be made into a market farm, probably a dairy, sheep and poultry farm.

Mr. George H. Hefner, of Petersburg, a man of large experience in brick manufacturing, has made Kenbridge his home and will have charge of the company's mammoth enterprise. This company owns some of the best clay banks in the county and has installed here a first-class plant. Local demand will doubtless keep the Kenbridge plant busy for several years to come, although the superior clay it has to work will undoubtedly create an outside demand for Kenbridge-made brick.

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UGANDA HAS BUT TWO MONUMENTS

These, of Which the People Are
Proud, Are the Tomb of a King
and a Christian Cathedral.

WAKE LASTS A LIFETIME

How Mutesa Was Buried—The
Death Watch of His Bald-
Headed Widows.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

[Special Correspondence of The Times-Dispatch.]

Mengo, Uganda.

There are two great monuments here at Mengo which mark the changes now going on in Uganda. One is the tomb of the tyrant Mutesa, who was ruling these millions of semi-civilized natives when our Stanley came. It is guarded by a score or more of his bald-headed widows, who are fated to watch his coffin the day of their death. The other is the mighty thatched cathedral of Namirembe, put up by the natives, that forms the centre of the modern Christian movement that has converted this nation. It is the largest church on the African continent, and thousands of negroes are worshipping in it.

The Tomb of King Mutesa.
But come with me first to take a look at the tomb. It lies here a few miles from the Victoria Nyanza, on a great hill opposite Kampala, and like no other tomb upon earth. I have visited the graves of the Pharaohs. The greatest of them were caged up in the pyramids, and it is only within recent years that they have been brought forth to light. Others were buried in the desert, and the mountains far up the Nile Valley; but for ages they were covered by sand and rock. I have wandered among the tombs of the Ming Emperors near Peking, and below the Great Wall in Central and North China.

They are guarded by giants, elephants, camels and lions cut out of stone. I have also seen the Taj Mahal at Agra, India, that structure of marble whose dome floats like a vast white cloud in the blue sky. It is the most beautiful monument ever erected, and was put up by a Mohammedan sultan out of his love for his wife. Among the other great tombs of the world are the enormous structure in Java known as the Boro Boedoor, near the temple of the famous stone goddess of the beautiful hills; the wonderfully decorated temples at Tokio, Japan, in the middle of the Shogun's and the Hotel Bonaparte rests in a sarcophagus of reddish brown granite guarded by the twelve apocryphal figures of the tomb down from the dome overhead.

This tomb of Mutesa is like none of these, and yet in many respects it is more alive and more wonderful. It consists of a hut shaped like a haystack and as big as the main tent of a circus. It is as high as a four-story house, and fully 100 feet in circumference. It is a great tent of thatched reeds, and is upheld by hundreds of poles. The reeds are tied up in bundles and are woven in and out as intricately as the finest of basket work. In some places they look like mosaics. They were originally white, but the smoke which arises from the perpetual fires within has turned them as black as the skins of Mutesa's widows, for whom the tomb forms a home.

The floor of the tomb is covered with grass cut for the purpose, and spread thickly over it. The poles which support the roof are so arranged that there is a wide pathway through the centre, and right in the middle, under the tip of the cone, lies the coffin. It is guarded by spears fixed upright on each side of it. There are shields of copper and

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REAL ESTATE NEWS; GREATER ACTIVITY

Sellers and Buyers Getting
Nearer Together, Meeting
on Halfway Ground.

MANCHESTER SALES; LIFE IN THE SUBURBS

Noticeable Increase in Inquiry
All Around Town—Bulk of
Sales, However, in West-
ern Section of City.
Dealers Are
Reticent.

The real estate agencies report a decidedly better week in their realm of trade and traffic. "It is true," said a member of one of the leading firms, "that the sales actually consummated do not foot up as large an amount as they have in some recent weeks, possibly not altogether as large as the last week, but the outlook is brighter, and there is more inquiry for all classes of property, and the people are showing a stronger disposition to trade."

Another well-known agent corroborated the above, and added: "You have had a good deal to say from time to time about the inability of the agents to get the buyers and sellers together, the former demanding concessions because, on account of hard times, concessions have been made in everything else that was for sale and the latter, having an abiding faith in solid old Richmond, would not come down a single peg. That has been true, but a change is coming over the dreams of both sides."

"The investors and home-buyers are acquiring a little more nerve, and the holders of property who want to sell are showing a disposition to meet them on at least halfway ground. If this heaven continues to work for a few more days, and I think it will, the agents will be able to show a large increase in the number of parties who want to buy, and the people are here who want to sell, and all the signs of the times this week indicate that they are getting closer together in their ideas of real values."

Non-Communicative Agents.

Under these circumstances and conditions, the agents have been kept quite busy the past week, and a large number of more or less important deals have been in the making, and are being consummated at an early date, it is to be hoped.

The agents are quite reticent as to actual results. One of them furnished the man of news with the information that in very many cases the parties to a transaction are desirous of secrecy, and beg that the newspapers be not told of what has happened in their cases. Another agent was very anxious to tell of a good little trade he closed up last Thursday, but the interested parties had demanded secrecy, and he had to be mum. However, it was learned that another it was learned that property amounting to about \$75,000 actually changed hands during the week, and at least as much more was practically put in closing up shape, but the deeds have not yet passed, and a real estate transaction never absolutely closed until the clerk of the Chancery Court has earned his fee for recordation.

Good Weather Helped Wonderfully.

The beautiful weather of the past week was very encouraging to the agents, especially those who had auctioned property. A number of lots were well attended, much interest was manifested by buyers, and in every case a sale was made.

The bulk of the deals that were made, may be said to have been in the western part of the city. Among the following, a number of lots were sold. Another one of the lots in the city was one involving as much as \$20,000, possibly more, but it was impossible to get any of the interested parties to disclose either the location, the name of the buyer or that of the seller. Another, at \$2,000, a new frame dwelling, No. 3110 Taylor Street, to James M. Hayes, at \$2,250.

Other Small Sales.

Messrs. Green & Read made several deals that the buyers and sellers do not want them to tell about. One sale, however, that they did mention is that of a lot at the corner of Cedar Street and Floyd Avenue, on which the purchaser has already arranged to erect a home. Mr. W. S. Streets was the buyer.

Messrs. Blanton & Purcell and Augustine Royall & Co. sold considerable property in Manchester the past week. It consisted of various lots of various sizes, and located in sundry places. The property belonged to a corporation, which wanted its assets converted into cash. The sales were made at auction, and there was a large attendance. Twenty-three lots on nearly as many Manchester streets were disposed of, and the total of all the bids was \$5,677.

Activity in the Suburbs.

There is remarkable activity in suburban property, and all of the agents who handle the same report larger sales in the aggregate than they have had at any previous times. But few houses are for sale in the suburbs, and whenever the "for sale" sign is stuck up on one a buyer comes along and has it removed before the passer-by gets used to seeing it. The activity is not confined to any one suburb. It is noticeable in Barton Heights, Highland Park, Chestnut Hill, Brookland Park and Ginter Park, in all of which there is much inquiry, and many sales are being made.

Ginter Park has, as usual, been an active center during the past week. Mr. M. W. Moncreux has purchased a lot on Seminary Avenue near Westwood, and will build a handsome home

(Continued on Second Page.)